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Former English Teacher Heads Air Force Women



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(Editor's Note: This is the fourth in a series of five thumbnail sketches on the chiefs of the U. S. women's military services.)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former English teacher at Boston and Connecticut Universities, Phyllis Dunsmore-Smith Gray is now a colonel and director of Women in the Air Force (WAF).

At 52, she is the oldest of the four top women military leaders — a specialist in intelligence and psychological warfare.

Col. Gray, born in Hartford, Conn., started her military career in the Navy early in World War II, working in naval intelligence. She also has served as a civilian intelligence analyst with government departments and was a scientific editor with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

When women were permitted in the Air Force, she was commissioned a major in 1949, combining personnel and intelligence work as the first WAF officer in the division of psychological warfare.

She planned and supervised the program setting up the WAF in Europe, where 800 are now assigned to Germany, France, Britain and Italy.

She is the third WAF director, appointed in January 1954.

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